

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 /070 W

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P 282211Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5924

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OAS, CIECC, MX

SUBJECT: REACTION TO ECHEVERRIA'S INAUGURAL SPEECH AT
CIECC MEETING

REF: MEXICO 813

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS ALL ARA DIPLOMATIC POSTS

1. PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S SPEECH, REPORTED REFTEL,
RECEIVED HEAVY COVERAGE IN JANUARY 28 MORNING PRESS ACCENT-
ING HIS CRITICISM OF OAS. MEDIA REACTION WAS GENERALLY
SUPPORTIVE.

2. REACTION TO THE SPEECH BY SOME OF THOSE ATTENDING
THE MEETING WAS MARKEDLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF MEXICAN
PRESS. CONSENSUS SEEMED TO BE THAT SPEECH WAS EXTREMELY
HOSTILE (TOWARD OAS) AND INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE FORUM.
POLISH AMBASSADOR (WHO ATTENDED SESSION AS OBSERVER)
CONSIDERED IT A "REVOLUTIONARY SPEECH". FROM HIS POINT OF
VIEW, OF COURSE, THIS IS ALL TO THE GOOD AND HE SEES ECHEVERRIA
AS A "RESPONSIBLE" REVOLUTIONARY. ECUADORIAN AMBASSADOR
CONSIDERED SPEECH HOSTILE AND, MOREOVER, DISCOURTEOUS
TO GALO PLAZA. HE COMMENTED THAT ECHEVERRIA MADE NO
COURTEOUS GESTURE TOWARD GALO PLAZA NOR POLITE COMMENT ON

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GALO PLAZA'S STEWARDSHIP IN OAS, NOW COMING TO AN END.

NOR DID HE MENTION THE DEATH OF FORMER OAS SECGEN JOSE MORA.
(GALO PLAZA DID REFER TO MORA IN HIS REMARKS.) JAMAICAN
AMBASSADOR SIMILARLY COMMENTED THAT ECHEVERRIA'S SPEECH
WAS AGGRESSIVE AND HOSTILE, AND HE THOUGHT THAT EVEN THE
MEXICAN LISTENERS WERE SHOCKED.

3. COMMENT: AS REFLECTED IN REFTEL, EMBASSY FOUND
WORDS AND TONE OF ECHEVERRIA'S SPEECH CRITICAL AND
AGGRESSIVE BUT, IN EFFECT, LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM
PREVIOUS SPEECHES MADE AT TLATELOLCO CONFERENCE LAST YEAR
AND OTHER PLATFORMS. JOVA

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ALL ARA DIPLOMATIC POSTS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MEETINGS, SPEECHES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MEXICO00843
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750031-0841
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750115/aaaaamqt.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MEXICO 813
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION TO ECHEVERRIA'S INAUGURAL SPEECH AT CIECC MEETING
TAGS: PFOR, MX, OAS, CIECC, (ECHEVERRIA ALVAREZ, LUIS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006